



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities

THE CHAIRMAN

March 3, 2015

Appropriations Committee, Connecticut General Assembly
Senator Beth Bye and Representative Toni Walker, Co-Chairs

Testimony of William Adams, Chairman,
National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, D.C.

Subject: House Bill No. 6824, re: funding for the Connecticut Humanities Council, Inc.

Dear Senator Bye and Representative Walker:

I write in strong support of current funding levels for the Connecticut Humanities Council Inc., the state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Connecticut Humanities effectively leverages its \$2 million state appropriation to make competitive grants in support of exhibits and innovative programming that reach people all across Connecticut.

Connecticut Humanities has a long and distinguished history of achievements in the humanities. The Council is often seen as a role model among the network of state and territorial humanities councils, and its national leadership is critical to the growth and development of community programs in the humanities across the country. These remarkable achievements have been made possible in large part because of the strong and wise support of the Connecticut state legislature that augments federal, corporate, and other matching funds from foundations and individuals.

I have seen firsthand the ways in which grants and programs administered by Connecticut Humanities take full advantage of the state's many cultural assets. During my recent visit to New Haven, where I appeared with Jane Chu, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, I experienced the wonderful ways that greater New Haven has built upon its cultural and historic assets to make it a location of choice for businesses and families. I saw this as well in Middletown, when I served as Wesleyan University's Vice President.

The National Endowment for the Humanities is the proud national partner of Connecticut Humanities. NEH's enabling legislation states boldly that the humanities belong to everyone. NEH relies on the state humanities councils to help make this vision a reality, and I can attest to the significant and critical achievements of the humanities council in the state of Connecticut.

I urge your full support.

Respectfully submitted,

William D. Adams